

The Oregon Trail 1830 through 1869

A Presentation of the Euramerican National Assembly

Agenda

- Lewis and Clark (1803)
- Fur Traders, Trappers and Explorers (1810 to 1835)
- Missionaries (1834)
- First Families Along the Oregon Trail (1839)
- Transcontinental Railroad ending the Trail

Lewis and Clark's Travels

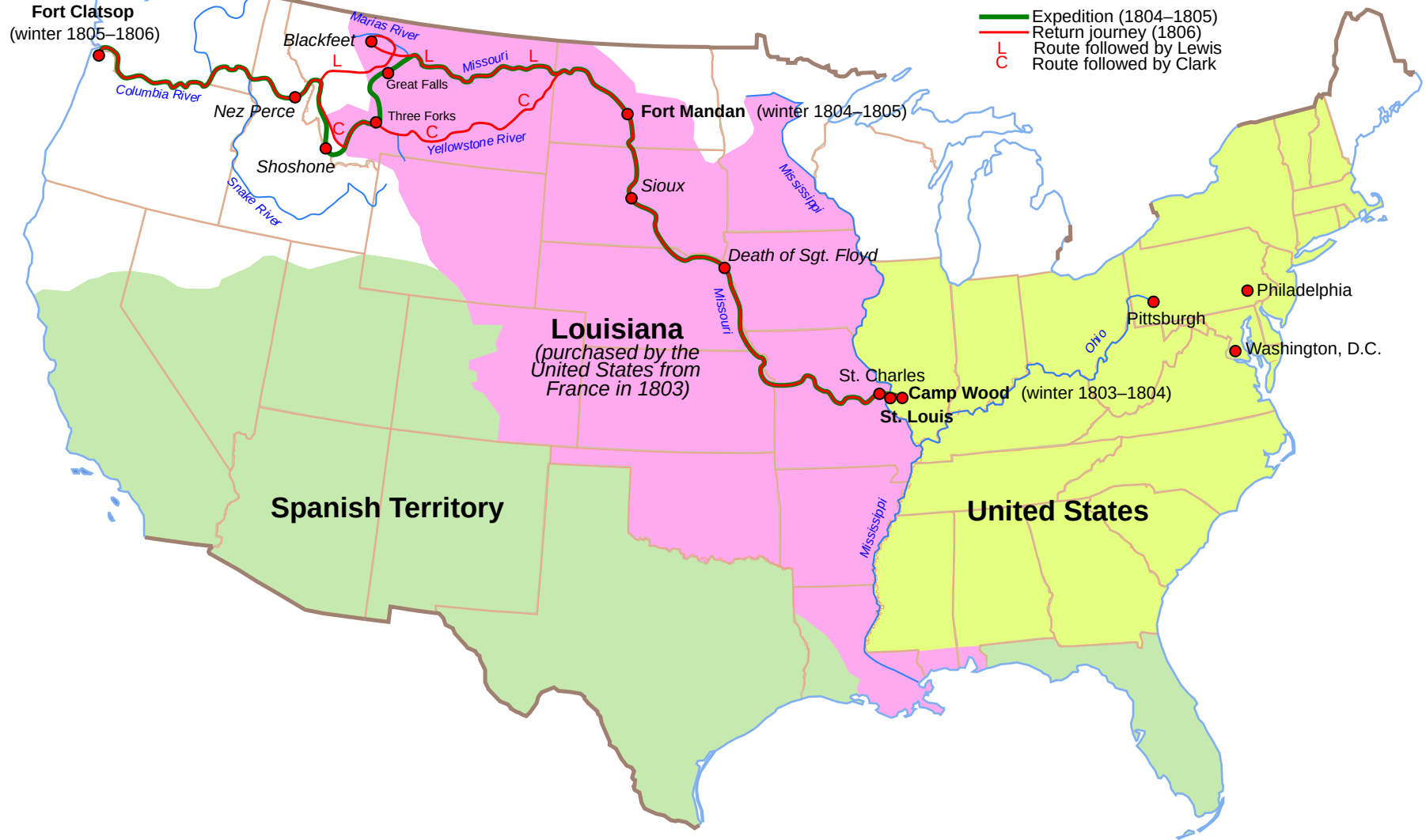
(1803)

Lewis and Clark's Travels

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned Lewis and Clark:

“The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri river, and such principal stream of it, as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado and/or other river may offer the most direct and practicable water communication across this continent, for commerce.”

Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804–1806)



- **Fur Traders, Trappers and Explorers
(1810 to 1835)**

Traders, Trappers and Explorers

- From 1810, Pacific Fur Company operated in the Pacific Northwest
- In 1811, North West Company begins operating
- In 1812, Hudson Bay Company (of Canada) is in the West

Traders, Trappers and Explorers

- Numerous trading Forts established
 - Fort Astoria in Astoria, Oregon – 1811
 - Fort Laramie in Wyoming - 1830's
 - Fort Hall, Idaho, 1837

Traders, Trappers and Explorers

- Dalles Methodist Mission set out to convert Indians
- 1834 traveled to Oregon

First Families Along the Oregon Trail

Families Along the Trail

- Economic problems upset farmers in East
- Free Land, highly fertile, called to be taken
- Some churches wanted people to convert the Indians
- Euramericans looked for a better life on the West Coast

Families Along the Trail

- 1839 Peoria Party
 - 18 men
 - Formed the Oregon Dragoons, a militia
 - Wanted to drive out Hudson's Bay Company
 - Set out to colonize Oregon for the U.S.

Families Along the Trail

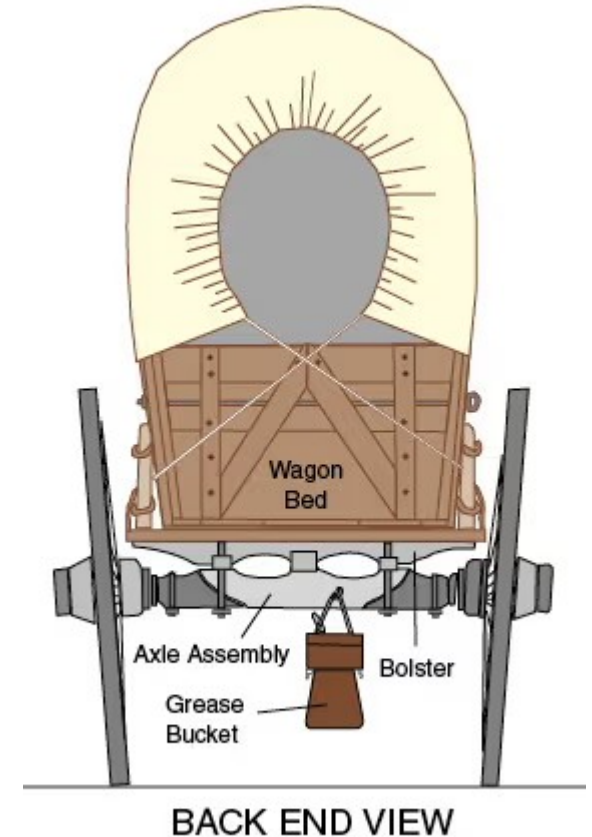
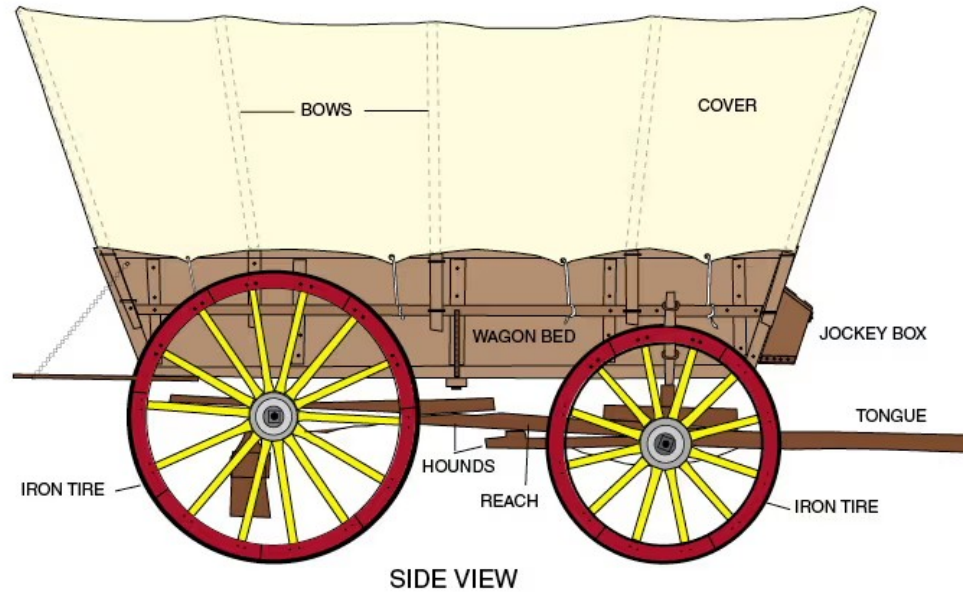
- September 1840
 - First families arrive
 - Three wagons
 - Arrived at the Columbia River
 - Opened the Oregon Trail

Families Along the Trail

- 1840 Western Emigration Society founded in Missouri.
- 500 pledges to travel to the West
- 1841 Bartleson-Bidwell Party traveled to California.
- Some remained in Oregon

Families Along the Trail

PARTS OF A PRAIRIE SCHOONER



Families Along the Trail

- It took four months from Illinois to Oregon
- Traveled about 16 miles a day
- Whole families left in groups
- Nearly 400,000 people went West (to Oregon, California and Washington) via the Oregon Trail.
- There were other trails.

Families Along the Trail

- Indians did attack
- Until 1849, fewer than 50 died from Indians
- By 1860, deaths from Indian attacks totaled close to 400.
- About 65,000 people died along the trail (4%)
- Cholera from bad water primary disease
- 20 graves per mile

Families Along the Trail

- 16 May 1842 Organized Wagon Train
- Left from Elm Grove, Missouri
- More than 100 people



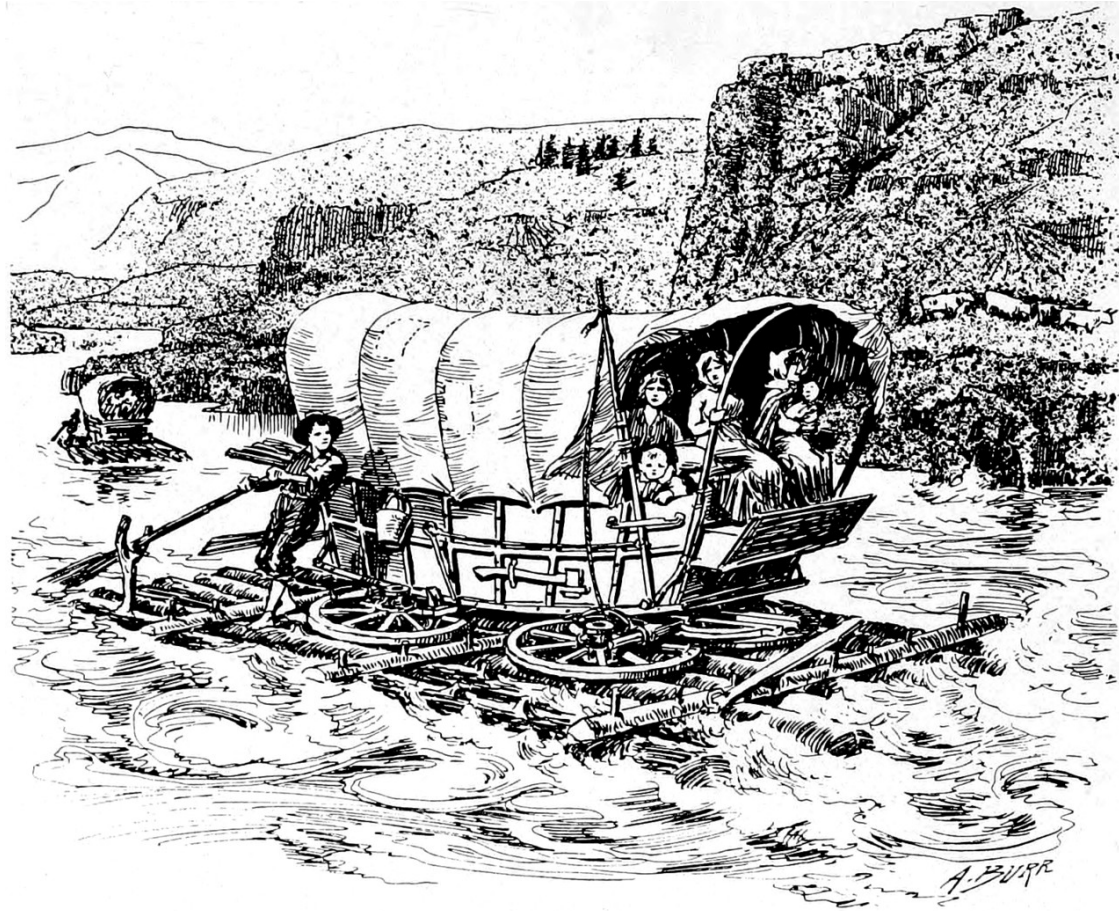
Families Along the Trail

Great Migration of 1843

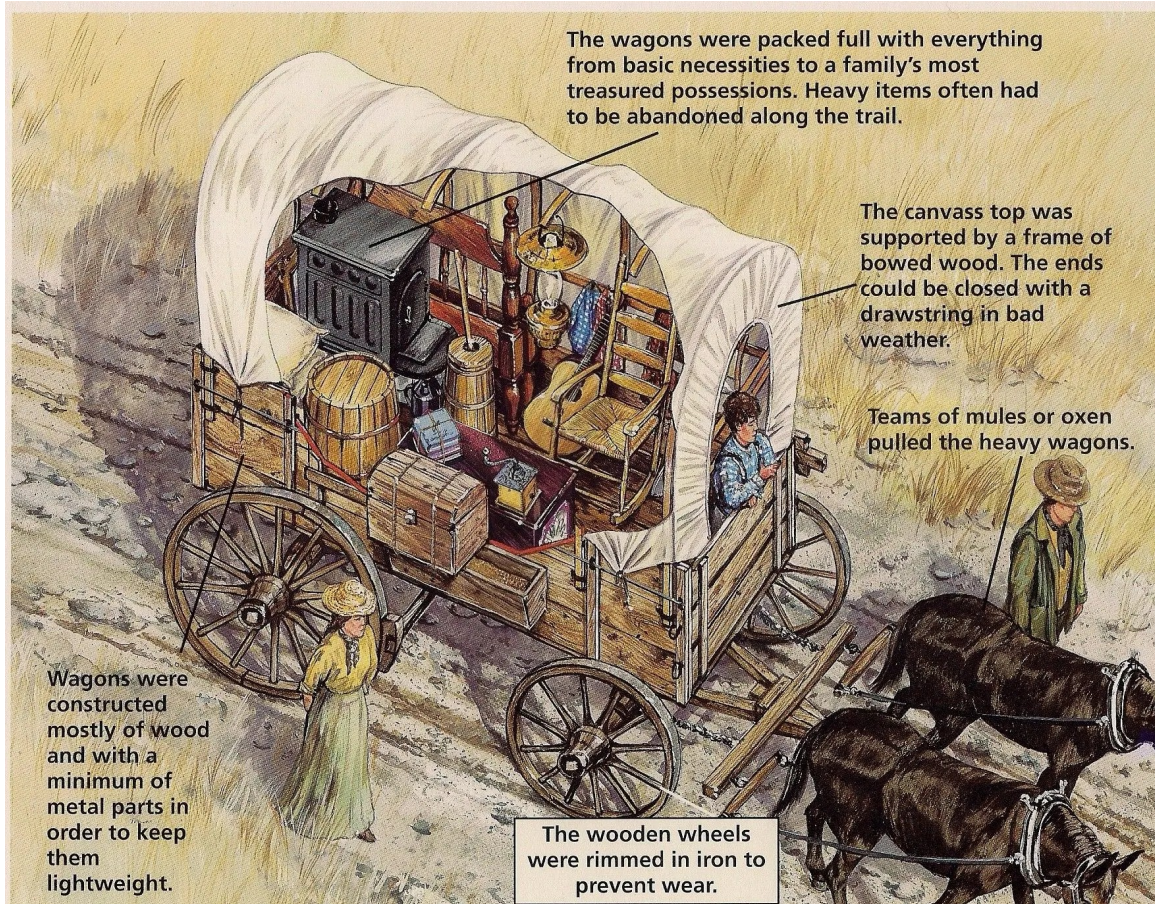
700 to 1000 left for
Oregon



Families Along the Trail



Families Along the Trail



Transcontinental Railroad Arrives

Transcontinental Railroad

- Finished May 10, 1869
- From Council Bluffs, Iowa
- To Sacramento California
- 1087 miles
- Brought high speed, comfortable travel



The End